



BOROUGH OF BEWDLEY.

Annual Report
OF
Medical Officer of Health

FOR

✻ 1938. ✻

BEWDLEY:

REG. L. MILLER, TOLLEYS PRINTING WORKS.



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BEWDLEY,

MAY 23rd, 1939.

To the Town Council of Bewdley.

GENTLEMEN,

Section A.
Statistics
and Social
Conditions
of the
District.

My report for the year 1938 is in the form prescribed by the Ministry of Health.

The area of the district is 3,757 acres.

The population is estimated by the Registrar General as 4,296.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1938 was 1,252, an increase of 78 from last year.

The rateable value of the district on April 1st, 1938, was £17,169.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £64/11/3.

The social conditions of the district are unchanged, except that the improved housing conditions are of great benefit to the health and happiness of the workers.

Vital Statistics.			Total	M.	F.	
	Live Births	(
	Legitimate		67	36	31	} Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population, 16·2
	Illegitimate		3	2	1	
	Still Births	(} Rate per 1,000 live and still births, 14·2
	Legitimate		1	1	—	
	Illegitimate		—	—	—	
	Deaths		48	24	24	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population, 11·1

Deaths from puerperal causes Nil

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births 42·8

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live
births 42·6

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live
births Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 7

„ „ Measles (all ages) Nil

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) 1

„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) Nil

The Birth Rate for England and Wales was 15·1
per 1,000 of the population.

The Death Rate for England and Wales was 11·6
per 1,000 of the population.

Section B.
Health
Services.

There have been no alterations in these during
the year.

Section C.
Sanitary
Circum-
stances of
Area.

1 (i) Water

The supply is satisfactory in quality and quantity.
The district has a piped supply. Eight samples of
water were sent for analysis, four bacteriological and
four chemical, and all proved satisfactory.

(ii) Drainage
and
Sewerage

Consent to proceed with a new sewerage scheme
has, at last, been obtained, and work has actually
commenced on the out-fall works.

2 Rivers
and
Streams.

The sewerage scheme, when completed, will pre-
vent all pollution of the River Severn.

3 (i) Closet
Accommod-
ation.

98 new water closets were put in during the year.

There are now 14 privy middens and 252 earth or
pail closets in use.

(ii) Public
Cleansing

The Council has now completed 100 houses under
Slum Clearance and Over Crowding Schemes, on a new
estate to the west of the town. This has incurred a

considerable extension to the refuse collection, but, so far, the work is being carried out satisfactorily.

150 dumb wells are emptied regularly, which entails a very considerable amount of expense, and very objectionable work for the Corporation staff. In spite of this, continual complaints are received about the nuisance caused by the over-flow of dumb wells. This will all be remedied when the new sewerage scheme is completed.

(iii) The Sanitary Inspector has furnished me with the following tabular statement:—
Sanitary Inspection of Area

House Inspection	126
“Provision of Ashbins” Inspection	109
Overcrowding	110
Factories and Workshops ..	11
Infectious Diseases	23
Smoke Nuisance	2
Offensive Trades	None
Slaughter Houses	25
Nuisances	54
Tenement Houses	9
Dairies and Cowsheds	53
Fishshops	5
Total	<u>527</u>

(iv) Shops and Offices No action taken.

(v) Camping Sites 1. Eight sites were used in the area during the year 1938.

2. No licenses have been issued by the Local Authority.

3. The maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the August Bank Holiday was 2,250.

These were in 723 tents, 17 caravans, and 10 bungalows.

- (vi) Smoke Abatement There is no nuisance from smoke in the area.
- (vii) Swimming Baths and Pools There are none in the area.
- (viii) Eradication of Bed Bugs
- (1) (a) Number of Council Houses found to be infested None
 - (b) Number of Other Houses found to be infested Three
 - (c) Number of Other Houses disinfested Three
 - (2) The method employed for disenfesting houses is as follows:—
 The plaster is stripped, skirting boards and other woodwork removed, and walls, floors, and ceilings sprayed with “Clymax.”
 Furniture, beds, &c. are cleaned with “Clymax” by hand.
 - (3) The method employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removing to Council Houses is as follows:—
 Furniture, beds, &c. are cleaned by hand with “Clymax.” All old bedding, linen, &c. is destroyed, after receiving the consent of the tenant. If the tenant has a very low income, the Council provide new bedding free of charge.
 - (4) The work of disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority.
 - (5) The Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector visit the families from time to time, and give advice upon the importance of strict cleanliness in the home and person.
- 4 Schools The sanitary conditions of the Public Elementary Schools and their water supply are satisfactory.
- Section D.
Housing During the year 60 houses have been completed and occupied on the Bark Hill site—25 for Slum Clearance and 35 for Overcrowding.

33 overcrowded families were moved into new Council Houses, and three families which preferred to stay near the centre of the town were found alternative accommodation. A further five families were de-crowded by moving members of the families to other houses.

Four families were in both overcrowded and slum clearance houses, so that the total number of cases of overcrowding dealt with by the Authority was 45.

No schemes of re-construction of the seven houses in Westbourne Street, mentioned in my last report, have yet been received by the Council, though the tenants vacated them several months ago. Meantime they are rapidly deteriorating, such artistic merits as they ever possessed will soon disappear, and they will become dangerous to the children who use them as a playground.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

- | | | |
|---------|---|-----------|
| (1) (a) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 92 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 126 |
| (2) (a) | Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 | 25 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 47 |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | Nil |
| (4) | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 64 |

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 26

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. 20

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners 20

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 4
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
 - (1) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. Nil
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding:—

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .. Nil
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein Nil
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein Nil
- (b) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year .. 3
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. 45
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases .. . 278
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil

Factories
and
Workshops

The Sanitary Inspector has supplied me with the following tabulated record of inspections under the Factory Acts:—

1 Inspections	Factories with mechanical power	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
	Factories with mechanical power	7	Nil	Nil
	Factories without mechanical power	4	Nil	Nil
2 Defects Found	Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.	Prosecutions
	Want of Cleanliness	2	2	Nil
	Over-crowding	Nil	Nil	
	Unreasonable Temperature	Nil	Nil	
	Inadequate Ventilation	2	2	Nil
	Other Offences	3	3	Nil
	Total ..	7	7	Nil

Section E.
Inspection
and
Supervision
of Food

- (a) Milk supply:—All farms and dairies are regularly inspected. All milk analysis is carried out by the County Council.

At the request of the County Council, five samples of milk were taken during the year and sent to the County Laboratory.

- (b) Meat and other foods:—The carcasses of 7 cows, 1 calf, 30 sheep and lambs, and 9 pigs were inspected during the year. In no case was the carcase, or any part of it, condemned.
- (c) The adulteration of food and drugs Acts are administered by the County Council.
- (d) No steps have been taken to increase the knowledge of the public on the subject of nutrition.

Section F.
Infectious
Diseases

There was a considerable epidemic of Diphtheria in the first four months of the year, and a smaller one in the last two months. 25 cases were notified during the year, and 3 carriers were discovered. 17 cases were removed to Hayley Green Isolation Hospital, the rest were isolated in their own homes.

There was only one death, a case in which the diagnosis was doubtful in the early stages, and an insufficient dose of serum given.

In many cases a protective dose of serum was given to children who had been in contact with the patient, with very satisfactory results.

There was a considerable outbreak of Mumps in the latter part of the year, a very unusual number of young adults being affected.

The cases of notifiable infectious diseases during the year are set out in the following table:—

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	3	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	22	17	1
Pneumonia	7	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	Nil
Erysipelas	1	Nil	Nil

The cases notified were in the following age groups:—

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas
3 years		1	1		
4 "					
5 "	1	12	1		
10 "	1	7	1		
15 "		2			
20 "	1		1	2	
35 "			2		
45 "			1		
65 & over					1

Tuberculosis Two cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year, both males, aged 35 and 17 respectively, and one case of Tuberculous glands, a female, aged 15.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

U. W. N. MILES,

Medical Officer of Health.

